

Remarks

This is Response to an Office Action mailed March 05, 2002 ("Office Action"). The Office Action has been reviewed, and in view of the foregoing amendments and following comments, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims pending in the application are respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 5, 10 and 20 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by this response. Therefore, claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-19, and 21-32 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over a U.S. Patent Number 6,044,372 issued to Rothfus *et al.* ("Rothfus"). Claims 2-3, 7-8, 14-15, and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rothfus in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,141,653 issued to Conklin *et al.* ("Conklin"). Claims 4, 9, 12, 19, and 21-32 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rothfus in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,020,980 issued to Freeman ("Freeman"). Claims 5, 10 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rothfus in view of US Patent Number 6,038,601 issued to Lambert *et al.* ("Lambert").

Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Rothfus. Applicants respectfully disagree. In an attempt to advance prosecution, however, Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 11, and 16. Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite among other things, that a

system for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising: the subscription requesting means comprising a programmable selection formula, wherein the programmable selection formula is programmed with subscription criteria, wherein the subscription criteria identify information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention. At least, these features are not suggested or disclosed in Rothfus, or any other cited references in the Office Action, or any of their combinations. Independent claims 6, 11, and 16 have been amended to recite similar features to the above quoted features recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 2-3, 7-8, 14-15, and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rothfus in view of Conklin. Dependent claims 2-3, 7-8, 14-15, and 17-18 each depend from one of independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 and, therefore, contain the features recited in the independent claims. As mentioned above, the cited references or their combinations fail to suggest or disclose the features in the independent claims and, thus, necessarily fail to suggest or disclose the features in the dependent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that dependent claims 2-3, 7-8, 14-15, and 17-18 are also allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 4, 9, 12, 19, and 21-32 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rothfus in view of Freeman. Dependent claims 4, 9, 12, 19, and 21-32 each depend from one of independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 and, therefore, contain the features recited in the independent claims. As mentioned above, the cited references or their combinations fail to suggest or

disclose the features in the independent claims and, thus, necessarily fail to suggest or disclose the features in the dependent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that dependent claims 4, 9, 12, 19, and 21-32 are also allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 5, 10, and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rothfus in view of Lambert. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 5, 10, and 20 are moot now since these claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

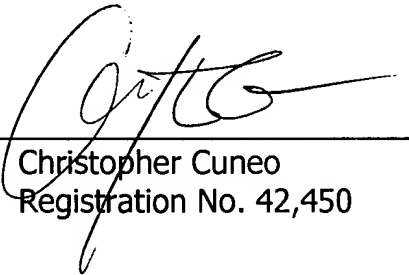
It is believed that no other fees are due in connection with filing this Response. In the event that it is determined that fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Attorney Docket No. 23452-078

Respectfully submitted,

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo, PC

Dated: July 3, 2002

By: _____


Christopher Cuneo
Registration No. 42,450

11911 Freedom Drive, Suite 400
Reston, VA 20190
Telephone (703) 464-4800
Facsimile (703) 464-4895

**APPENDIX-A VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN
THE CLAIMS**

1. **(Twice Amended)** A system for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

subscription requesting means for enabling a user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, the subscription requesting means comprising a programmable selection formula, wherein the programmable selection formula is programmed with subscription criteria, wherein the subscription criteria identify [identifies] information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

subscription parameter receiving means for receiving at least one subscription parameter from the user wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

search performing means for performing a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription;[and]

subscription retrieving means for retrieving the information matching the subscription; and

subscription notification means for notifying the user of matched and retrieved information.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the search performing means performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the search performing means performs the

search on a random basis selected by the user.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising option input means for enabling a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

5. **(Cancelled)**

6. **(Twice Amended)** A system for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

a subscription requesting object that enables a user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, the subscription requesting object comprising a programmable selection formula, wherein the programmable selection formula is programmed with subscription criteria, wherein the subscription criteria identify [identifies] information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

a subscription parameter receiving object that receives at least one subscription parameter from the user, wherein the subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

a search performing object that performs a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription; [and]

a subscription retrieving object that retrieves the information matching the subscription; and

subscription notification means for notifying the user of matched and retrieved information.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the search performing object performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the search performing object performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

9. The system of claim 6, further comprising an option input object that enables a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

10. **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Twice Amended)** A method for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising the steps of:

requesting a subscription for at least one non-web document from at least one database, wherein the request comprises a programmable selection formula, wherein the programmable selection formula is programmed with subscription criteria, wherein the subscription criteria identify [identifies] information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

receiving at least one subscription parameter from a user, wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to be retrieved;

performing a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription; [and]

retrieving the information matching the subscription; and

notifying the user of matched and retrieved information.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of presenting the information to the user.
13. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of periodically searching the at least one database.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of periodically searching the at least one database is performed on a random basis.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of periodically searching the at least one database is performed on a periodic basis selected by the user.
16. **(Twice Amended)** A processor readable medium having processor readable code embodied therein for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

subscription requesting processor readable code for causing a processor to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, the subscription requesting processor readable code comprising a programmable selection formula, wherein the programmable selection formula is programmed with subscription criteria, wherein the subscription criteria identify [identifies] information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

subscription parameter receiving processor readable code for causing a processor to receive at least one subscription parameter from a user wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

search performing processor readable code for causing a processor to perform a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription; [and]

information retrieving processor readable code for causing a processor to retrieve the information matching the subscription; and

subscription notifying processor readable code for causing a processor to notify the user of matched and retrieved information.

17. The medium of claim 16, wherein the search performing processor readable code performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

18. The medium of claim 17, wherein the search performing processor readable code performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

19. The medium of claim 16, further comprising option input processor readable code for causing a processor to enable a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

20. **(Cancelled)**

21. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

22. The system of claim 1, further comprising subscription presenting means for presenting the subscription to the user.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the subscription presenting means presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

24. The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

25. The system of claim 6, further comprising subscription presenting means for presenting the subscription to the user.
26. The system of claim 25, wherein in the subscription presenting means presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.
27. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.
28. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of presenting the subscription to the user.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein the presenting step presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.
30. The medium of claim 16, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.
31. The medium of claim 16, further comprising subscription presenting processor readable code for causing a processor to present the subscription to the user.
32. The medium of claim 31, wherein the subscription presenting processor readable code presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.